



THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS OF  
DHS SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS  
FACT SHEET 4: THE DEVASTATING HUMAN COSTS OF MAYORKAS'  
INTENTIONAL CRISIS

CHAIRMAN MARK E. GREEN, MD

## BACKGROUND:

*Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' refusal to enforce the laws passed by Congress and dismantling of effective border security policies have exacted a devastating human cost on citizens, migrants, and federal law enforcement agents. The steep consequences of opening America's sovereign borders to millions of illegal aliens, cartel operatives, known criminals, potential terrorists, and foreign adversaries have been tragic and alarming. This document highlights some of the most significant costs being borne by Americans and migrants alike. For more complete details, check out the Committee's [Phase 3 interim report](#).*

## FENTANYL FLOWING ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST BORDER:

- More than 70,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021 were attributed to synthetic opioids other than methadone—[primarily fentanyl](#). The CDC predicted [83,000 such deaths](#) for 2022. Fentanyl poisoning is now [the leading cause of death](#) for Americans between the ages of 18-45.
- In Texas alone, [fentanyl-related deaths rose 89%](#) from 2020 to 2021. Sheriff Jim Skinner of Collin County, Texas said in August 2022 that poisonings had increased in his county [by 571%](#).
- The crisis is so bad that the FDA [approved over-the-counter naloxone](#) nasal spray in 2023 to give Americans more access to lifesaving treatment to counter fentanyl poisoning.
- Fentanyl was involved in [884 adolescent deaths](#) in 2021—up from 253 just two years earlier.
- In the early days of the present border crisis, Gloria Chavez, then-El Paso Sector chief patrol agent, said, “For the first time, [we're starting to see these tactics where fentanyl is being smuggled between ports of entry](#). ... They find ways to intimidate migrants and find ways to illegally have them transport that narcotic into the United States.” The cartels overwhelm Border Patrol agents in one sector with a group of migrants, and then push more groups and drugs across in another.
- Sheriff Skinner: “It's quite frankly a [tsunami of death](#) that is crashing into the United States over our southern border. It's killing Americans wholesale and it's just an epic slaughter manufactured by the cartels. If you don't secure the border it's going to continue.”

## MORE DEMANDS, CRATERING MORALE FOR CBP, ICE, AND THEIR FAMILIES:

- Mayorkas' border crisis has overwhelmed and demoralized federal, state, and local law enforcement.
- In May 2023, the DHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) [reported](#) that the record surge of illegal aliens across the border has negatively impacted the psychological health and morale of CBP and ICE officials.
  - The report found approximately a quarter of personnel surveyed could be expected to leave the force barring changes, with “struggles with carrying out their law enforcement duties as well as morale as issues influencing their decision to either leave or retire.”
- Multiple chief patrol agents told the House Committee on Homeland Security in transcribed interviews that they had heard agents complain [they were operating with their hands tied behind their backs](#).
- Mayra Cantu, the wife of an agent, [testified to the Committee last year](#), “A lot of duties have been taken away from our Border Patrol agents, the duties that they learned at their academy to do. Now they've been just diluted because of the simple concept of the border is open.”
- In FY23, Border Patrol agents conducted [more than 37,000 rescues](#) at the Southwest border, up from 22,000+ in FY22 and just 4,920 in FY19. Rescues in FY22 alone outnumbered those from FY11-18 combined.



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### IMPACT ON CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Secretary Mayorkas' open-borders policies have fueled crime and undermined public safety in American communities over the past three years. The number of criminal illegal aliens apprehended by the Border Patrol has skyrocketed since Mayorkas took office, including those guilty of violent offenses like homicide, sexual assault, and domestic violence.
- When the federal government fulfills its duty to secure the border and enforce the law, criminal aliens are removed from the country. Yet under Mayorkas' policies of non-enforcement, Border Patrol agents are encountering significant numbers of illegal aliens with criminal records.
- Dustin Caudle, deputy chief patrol agent for the Yuma Sector, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in a September 2023 interview, "any crime that can be committed, we do encounter people who have committed them."
- By October 2023, Border Patrol agents were apprehending more than 47 illegal aliens per day with "serious criminal histories."
- Cochise County, Arizona Sheriff Mark Dannels testified to the House Judiciary Committee in February 2023 that "border-related crime" was "at an all-time high" in his county, including murders, aggravated acts against Arizonans, failures to yield to law enforcement, and assault of law enforcement officials.
- Meanwhile, ICE is arresting far fewer criminal aliens under Secretary Mayorkas. In FY19, 86% of 143,000+ ICE ERO administrative arrests were of criminal aliens and 90% of 103,693 arrests in FY20 during COVID-19. In FY22, just 32% of 142,750 total arrests were of criminal aliens, and 43% of ~143,000 arrests in FY23.
- On Aug. 22, 2023, 35-year-old Haitian Hermanio Joseph crashed into a school bus in Clark County, Ohio, killing 11-year-old Aiden Clark on his first day of school and injuring 26 other children. ICE later confirmed that Joseph arrived in the country via the Southwest border in August 2022, was issued a Notice To Appear (NTA), and made his way to Ohio.
- On June 14, 2023, El Centro Sector Chief Patrol Agent Gregory Bovino tweeted a photo of a fatal car crash caused by a drunk driver in the United States illegally. The driver had also been convicted of domestic violence. Bovino later told Committee staff that he was ordered to delete the tweet "because it was too political, and there were some folks at the higher levels that had a...problem with that."
- In May 2023, Grevi Geovani Rivera-Zavala was charged with raping a teenage girl in a restaurant bathroom in Prattville, Alabama. He had a prior criminal record in Honduras when he was apprehended crossing the Texas border illegally in November 2021, but was released.

### INCREASED MIGRANT SUFFERING AND DEATH:

- Those making the trek to the border experience untold suffering along the way. As the number of people journeying to the border reaches record highs, so do the horror stories.
- The Rio Grande River poses a dangerous barrier to those seeking to enter illegally. In the span of just 24 hours in August 2022, the river claimed the lives of a 3-year-old boy and a 5-year-old girl, while a 2-month-old boy was taken to the hospital in critical condition following attempted crossings in the area around Eagle Pass, Texas.
- Under Mayorkas' leadership, CBP has stopped publicly releasing the number of migrants found dead on U.S. soil, but in FY21, the last year for which CBP produced the data, Border Patrol agents and other law enforcement agencies discovered 568 dead migrants at the



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Southwest border, more than double the 254 discovered in FY20. Per reporting from the Wall Street Journal, the number in FY22 was 890.

- Over the four years prior to FY21, the number of dead migrants found by authorities at the Southwest border never exceeded 300.
- Dr. Corrine Stern, a medical examiner in Texas, in August 2022: “I’m seeing an extreme increase in the number of border crossing deaths...This is my busiest year in my career ever.”
- According to a September 2023 New York Times report, Colombian President Gustavo Petro projected half a million people would cross the Darién Gap in 2023, and one million in 2024. The Panamanian government has stated that a record 40,438 children transited the gap in 2022.
- Per the Panama Red Cross, between 10-15% of those who transit the Darién Gap “suffer sexual violence” along the way. Then-San Diego Sector Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Heitke told the Committee in May 2023, “It’s very common that female migrants are raped during the process. ... Most of them believe it’s just part of the payment as they go up.”
- One 2021 report documented the existence of “rape trees” along the border—“known locations where smugglers and others rape women and leave their undergarments on the tree as ‘trophies.’”

## **RECORD EXPLOITATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN (UACS):**

- Just since FY21, CBP has recorded ~460,000 encounters of UACs at the Southwest border. From FY17-FY20, by comparison, Southwest border encounters of UACs totaled around 221,000.
- An ongoing Florida grand jury investigation has found that these minors are commonly exploited by smugglers to ensure entry for groups of illegal aliens.
- According to one federal police investigator in Brazil, “There are also cases in which children are rented out multiple times; they enter with one family and then enter again with another family.”
- Heitke told the Committee his agents had expressed concerns that the screening necessary to ensure UACs are not being trafficked or exploited could suffer when during surges: “The busier you get, the less time you have, the less time you can put into interviews.”
- As a result of inadequate ability to vet sponsors and keep track of UACs after being released to them, the Biden administration had lost track of more than 85,000 UACs as of last year.
- The Florida grand jury uncovered cases in which the Biden administration released dozens of UACs into situations that were clearly exploitative. For example, the administration sent more than 100 children to the same address in Austin, Texas, while other Texas addresses received 44 and 25 minors, respectively.